

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS18454

This legislation provides the following solutions for current problems associated with elections:

- To provide uniformity and professionalism in all elections, the authority to conduct any election is vested with the County Clerk.
- To provide voter information, County Clerks will now be responsible for the notification of all elections including legal notices, voter guides, polling place personnel and election expenses.
- To enhance predictability as to when to vote, elections will be conducted on the second Tuesday in March, third Tuesday in May, last Tuesday in August and the first Tuesday in November as follows:
 1. All partisan races (federal, state, and county) will be held on even number years. Included on even number years will be some special district elections to reduce the number of elections on any given date.
 2. In even numbered years any bond or levy question, state wide ballot questions and judicial races.
 3. All non-partisan races (city, districts and boards) will be held on odd number years. Included in odd years will be the majority of special districts plus local levy, local bond and local ballot questions.
 4. Schools receive two additional dates in any year for conducting only supplemental and bond levy elections - the second Tuesday in March and the last Tuesday in August.
 5. Recall elections may be held as provided by statute.
- To increase voter participation, all elections will be held at traditional precinct polling places. The county clerk will coordinate and ensure the voter receives the appropriate ballots for all elections for each location. For example, the voter may receive a ballot for a school trustee election, city council election, recreation district, and a bond issue for a new city hall. How the respective ballots are identified will be at the discretion of the election officials.
- This election reform is about the mechanics of elections. It does not change same day registration or absentee balloting.
- For some local taxing districts, it does change the term of office to accommodate the new voting dates.
- Effective date is 2011.

FISCAL NOTE

Funding for this legislation is contained in a companion bill. This legislation becomes effective only upon the passage of the funding mechanism. The fiscal impact to the General Fund is zero in fiscal year 2010 and 2 million dollars in fiscal year 2011 and thereafter.

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